

Creative Arts

Incidental Fee Committee for FY27

February 5, 2026



IFC Supports Cultural Activities

Creative Arts serve a dual role at WOU:

- Academic programs, classes, and degrees (**not** funded by IFC)
- Cultural activities (**supported by IFC**, thank you!!!)
 - Theatre
 - Music
 - Dance
 - Art & Design
- Creative Arts provide students with space, tools, and opportunities to express themselves and **belong** at WOU. These activities build community and relationships, and amplify voices and abilities.



IFC Supports Student Employment in Creative Arts

~50 student
jobs on campus
every year!



Theatre Productions and Performances

- Three mainstage plays per year (fall, winter, spring)
- Summer theatre production
- Tickets are always free to WOU students
- Participation is open to all WOU students
 - cast
 - crew
 - set building
 - costume creation
 - lighting and sound



Theatre - Student Employment

- Set building
- Costume shop
- Box office
- Ushering
- Stage management
- Promotions and graphic design



Theatre - Other Expenses

- Materials for sets and costumes
- Professional designers and directors
- Video recording of performances
- Lighting and stage equipment maintenance



Music Ensembles

- Participation is open to all WOU students (sometimes by audition)
 - Admission to performances is free for WOU students
- Chamber Singers
 - Concert Choir
 - Western Oregon Voices
 - Jazz Orchestra
 - Wind Ensemble
 - Percussion Ensemble
 - Mariachi Ensemble



Music Ensembles - Expenses

- Sheet music
- Instrument purchases and repairs
- Travel
- Conference and festival registration
- Professional guest performers and conductors
- Professional accompanists



Music - Professional Concerts and Workshops

- One or more guest artists per term
- Concert tickets are free to WOU students
- Often the performers hold workshops on campus, open to the public



Music - Student Employment

- Music library
- Box office
- Ushering
- Stage management
- Promotions and graphic design



Dance Performances

- Three major Dance Concert programs per year
 - Fall Dance Concert
 - Emerging Choreographers Concert (student-choreographed)
 - Spring Dance Concert (the big one!)
- Open showings at the end of each term
- Admission is always free to WOU students
- Participation is open to all WOU students
 - Dance performers (by audition)
 - Technical work such as stage management, costumes, etc
 - Student choreographers (by audition)



Dance - Travel



Dance Masterclasses

- Professional dancers and choreographers invited to hold workshops
- One-day event teaching a specific type of dance, or special topic
- Open to all WOU students
- On campus



Dance - Student Employment

- Costume shop
- Box office
- Ushering
- Stage management
- Promotions and graphic design



Dance - Other Expenses

- Materials for sets and costumes
- Professional lighting and sound designers
- Guest choreographers
- Masterclass instructors
- Video recording of performances
- Lighting and stage equipment maintenance
- Travel
- Conference registration



Art & Design - Gallery Exhibitions

- ~30 art exhibitions per year
 - Cannon Gallery in Campbell Hall
 - Flux Space Gallery in the ITC Building (dedicated exclusively to WOU student artwork!)
 - Featured Student Gallery in the WUC
 - Hamersly Library Galleries
- Admission is always free to WOU students and the public
- All WOU students can submit artwork to the Annual Student Juried Exhibition



Art & Design - Visiting Artists

- Professional artists show their work in campus galleries
- Artist talks give WOU students a chance to hear directly from the artists, and to interact and ask questions



Art & Design: Other IFC Activities

- Guest speakers and artists
- Free co-curricular art activities for all students
 - life drawing sessions with live models
 - **"Art Feels Good"** artmaking activities for wellness and stress management
 - travel to art galleries, studios, and museums
- Maintaining and displaying the university's permanent collection of art
 - artworks by past and present students, faculty, guest artists, and donated art
 - in academic and administrative buildings



Art & Design - High Demand

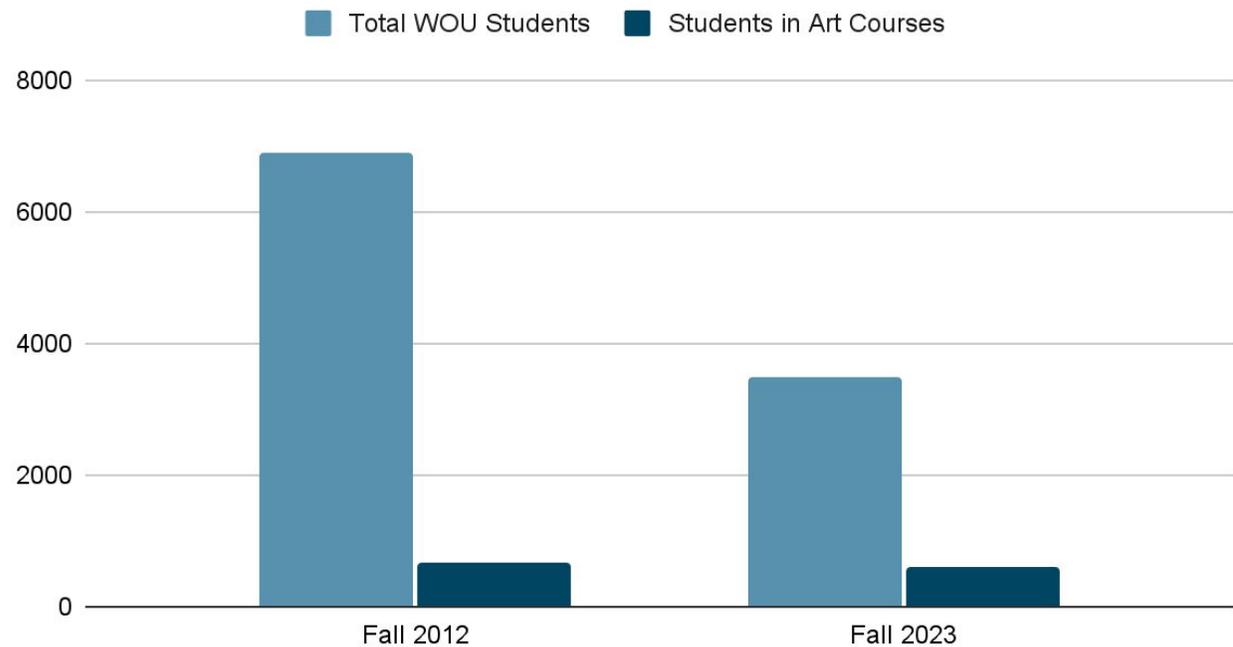
The number of WOU students interested in Art & Design has remained high even as overall enrollment has declined. Students love making art, which is proven to support health.

Around 400 students took an Art class in fall 2012, out of about 7000 total students at WOU.

In fall 2023, again about 400 students took an Art class, out of around 3700 total students at WOU.

However, our ability to schedule enough Art & Design class sections to meet student demand has been reduced repeatedly over the past few years, despite those classes being full.

Demand for Art & Design



Vanishing Resources

- IFC activities in Creative Arts are typically led by faculty members, but faculty salaries don't come from IFC funds
- The number of faculty in Creative Arts has decreased by about 8 full time positions over the past two years
- Fewer faculty = costs shift to IFC funding

Budget Pressures

- New IFC costs for Theatre
 - Lighting designers, directors, sound designers, musical accompanists
 - Until now, faculty did this work for every play (academic budget, not IFC)
 - \$50k per year required to maintain current service levels
- New IFC costs for Art & Design
 - Students need artmaking experiences, more IFC activities can help replace reduced class availability
- Equipment replacement reserve fund
 - \$14k per year for 3 more years needed to fully fund this reserve account

Creativity and Community EVOLVE



Creativity and Community EVOLVE



New Directions

- Creative Arts are a key way for WOU to provide great experiences for students. We want to establish a new multi-use student space (in an amazing, currently vacant location on campus) for:
 - hanging out/doing whatever
 - with high-quality artmaking supplies and equipment readily available
 - hosting activities like **Art Feels Good**, where students organize events for other students to have fun and make art
 - a small stage and sound system, for band practice and casual or intimate shows (garage rock, electronic, singer/songwriter, jazz, poetry, etc)



New Access

- Creative Arts is **very** interested in making all tickets **free** to everyone in the WOU community, not just students.
- ~3000 tickets for events last year, a slight increase from the previous year.
- Around 50% of those were free tickets for WOU students.
- About \$18k in ticket revenue. This goes straight back into our IFC indexes.
- We would like to reduce ticket revenue to \$0. Donations could still be accepted.
- To increase access and inclusion for WOU students' family members, friends, and entire the local community.
- Would impact our overall available dollars.

Budget Request FY27

Based on the current breakdown within Creative Arts, subject to change as we identify the best possible uses and priorities for the coming year:

- Music: \$114,496
- Dance: \$41,807
- Theatre: \$116,778
- Art & Design: \$42,803
- **TOTAL: \$315,884**



Cut Package - 5%

- 5% reduction = \$300,090 total budget
 - fewer student employment opportunities
 - possible reduction in number of Theatre productions or Music concerts
 - unmet needs for replacing work previously done by faculty
 - lower overall production value can be achieved
 - potential for diminished professional impression on the community
 - challenges implementing new initiatives (free tickets for all, new art+music space for all WOU students) - may not be possible

Cut Package - 10%

- 10% reduction = \$284,296 total budget
 - fewer student employment opportunities
 - possible reduction in number of Theatre productions **and** Music concerts
 - unmet needs for replacing work previously done by faculty
 - lower overall production value can be achieved
 - potential for diminished professional impression on the community
 - increased challenges implementing new initiatives (free tickets for all, new art+music space for all WOU students) - may not be possible

Thank you for supporting Creative Arts!

Questions?

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